

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING INITIATIVE REPORT

City of Las Vegas
Department of Finance and Business Services
Purchasing and Contracts Division
FY 2009-2010

The Purchasing and Contracts Division of the Finance and Business Services Department has developed a policy for environmentally aware purchasing including preference for products that are:

- Made of recycled materials, maximizing post-consumer content
- Durable, repairable, compostable, and reusable products as opposed to single use, customized or disposable items
- Non-toxic or minimally toxic, preferable biodegradable
- Minimize use of virgin materials, except for rapidly renewable materials
- Highly energy efficient in production and use
- Manufactured in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner by companies with good environmental track record
- Cause minimal or no environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
- Shipped with minimal packaging (consistent with care of the product), preferably made of recycled and/or recyclable materials
- Recycled paper and paper products
- Green Seal cleaning products
- Energy saving products – certified EnergyStar, etc.

Current Initiatives

Office Supplies – Paper

In Fiscal Year 2008 Purchasing conducted a pilot program city-wide for changing from 100% virgin copy paper to paper with post-consumer content. Paper with 30% post-consumer content was chosen and the program was implemented beginning in March 2008.

In the year from March 2009 through March 2010 utilizing recycled content paper has saved 164,948 gallons of waste water, reduced energy usage by 114 million BTUs, and saved 34,249 pounds of CO² which equates to the greenhouse gases produced by 3 cars.

To save even more on paper, all of the multi-functional copiers in the City were set-up to default to double-sided copying in September 2008. The impact on cost savings was immediate. From March 2007 through March 2008, paper spend was

\$135,531; March 2008 through March 2009, spend reduced to \$111,523, a savings of \$24,008; and March 2009 through March 2010, spend reduced to \$109,991, a further savings of \$1,532.

Office Supplies – Delivery

Though our office supply vendor provides next-day desktop delivery services, it costs the city, the vendor, and the environment an excessive amount to deliver low dollar orders to many locations in the city on a daily basis. In July 2008 the City began a program to decrease the number of office supply orders and the number of low dollar orders. In the period from May 2008 through April 2009 the total number of orders decreased by 35% and the number of low dollar orders decreased by 53%. Continuing the program from May 2009 through April 2010 resulted in an additional decrease in both total orders and low dollar orders. In the year from May 2008 through June 2009, the number of total orders was 1901 and the low dollar order total (under \$50) was 201. This represents 10.5% of the total orders. In the year from May 2009 through April 2010 the total number of orders was 1643 and the number of low dollar orders fell to 143. This represents 8.7% of the total orders. This was a significant improvement because each trip that the vendor does not have to make to our offices shrinks our carbon footprint in a variety of ways. The 263 trips that were eliminated saved:

- 161 lbs. of corrugated boxes
- the pollution generated by one car
- 790 gallons of wastewater
- 960 lbs of greenhouse gases
- 1 dump truck load of solid waste

Paint

The City has taken a lifecycle approach for the use of paint with the support of Field Operations and Neighborhood Services Departments.

First, low-VOC paint is purchased for use in our City buildings.

Second, beginning in 2009 when there is old paint to be disposed of, it is turned in to a paint recycling company at no charge – eliminating pickup and disposal fees and keeping it out of the landfills. In Calendar Year 2008 the City spent \$5,095 for paint disposal fees. With this new program, there is no cost associated with these services. In 2009, the disposal fees saved by the City totaled \$9,040.

Third, paint to cover graffiti is now purchased from a paint recycling company. In Calendar Year 2009, the City bought 1022 five-gallon pails of graffiti paint at \$37.50 per pail. This paint from the paint recycling company is thicker due to the additional pigment added to the original color and, because of this, does a better job of covering graffiti, and costs \$4.20 a pail less than new paint, a savings of \$4,292.40 in CY2009.

The product works better, costs less and paint that would otherwise end up in a landfill is being utilized. Other local entities have now joined this contract.

Floor Mats

Floor mats are a standard feature of all of City buildings. They collect dirt and dust from shoes and help keep the facilities cleaner. Until recently, the floor mats at City buildings were rentals, provided by a local company at a cost of \$60,000-\$65,000 per year. This former process had an adverse impact on the environment due to the laundering process that was water and chemical intensive, in addition to the logistics process that required the vendor to deliver and pick up mats to and from over 50 City buildings on a weekly or monthly basis depending on the requirement.

In 2010 Purchasing implemented a new mat program. The new mats are sustainable, made with post-consumer material and are purchased rather than rented from the supplier. The carpeted portion of the mat is made 100% from PET bottles and the rubber backing contains 15 - 20% recycled rubber from old tires. The mats have earned the approval of the Green Building Council. This also gains the City points toward LEED status.

These materials produce a mat that is not only friendly to the environment, but also is of much higher quality and will last substantially longer than the rented mats, between five and ten years. The mats are thicker and are guaranteed not to curl up. These new mats are saving the City between \$250,000 and \$500,000 over the useful life of the mats, and the initial outlay - \$60,000 – is what CLV would have spent on rentals in one year.

New Initiative for 2010 - Grainger Products

In Calendar Year 2009 total green spend with Grainger, our supplier for industrial items, totaled \$27,720 or 4% of total Grainger spend. Of this amount, \$15,635 was on products that are green certified. Some of the products included are light bulbs and ballasts, electrical parts, power tools, fasteners, test instruments and hardware. In 2010, Purchasing is now working with Grainger to increase the percentage of green purchases.